

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, 13, 14, 16-19, 21-23, 25, 28 and 29 are pending. The Office Action dated April 10, 2008 in this Application has been carefully considered. The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10, 14 and 16 have been amended in this Response. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone conference conducted on June 2, 2008. During the interview, the U.S.C. § 101 rejections were informally discussed; however, the Examiner indicated informally that no agreement could be reached by formal telephone interview. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any issues raised or remaining.

Claims 1-8, 10, 13, 14, 16-19, 21-23, 25, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the Claims do not recite a useful result and the Examiner objects that the Specification fails to provide a proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter in Claim 16. Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been overcome or have been traversed.

Regarding rejected independent Claim 1, the Examiner states the rejected claims “merely disclose elements/ steps of performing mathematical function without disclosing a practical application with a concrete, useful, and tangible result.” While Applicants maintain that the rejection of Claim 1 is improper, in the interests of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite “An apparatus comprising circuitry for use as a floating point adder configured to compute a result of a floating-

point operation...” Further, Applicants have amended Claim 1 and its dependents Claims 2-8, 10, and 14 to recite that the components that the Examiner cites as “not associated with circuits/circuitries” are now claimed as circuits configured as each components. This amendment is made for the purposes of more clearly identifying that Claim 1 recites a useful apparatus. This amendment does not add new matter and is not made in response to any cited art. Accordingly, Applicants do not surrender any equivalents encompassed by the Claims as a result of this amendment.

Applicants respectfully assert that an apparatus comprising circuitry configured for “computing floating-point operations” provides immediate benefit to the public and a useful result. See paragraph [0012] of the published application. Some embodiments of the invention, as recited in Claim 1, comprise improved Floating-Point Units (FPUs). See the Abstract and paragraph [0011] of the published application. FPUs have been useful elements of computer architecture for a number of years. See paragraph [0004] of the published application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of Claim 1 has been overcome and that Claim 1 should be deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-8, 10, 13 and 14 depend from and further limit Claim 1. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these dependent Claims should also be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejections of Claims 1-8, 10, 13 and 14 be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 16 has been amended to recite “A computer program product, embodied on a computer readable medium, configured for use as a floating point adder for computing a result of a floating-point operation” (Emphasis added.) Thus, Claim

16 does disclose that the result of the claimed computer program product is a real world and use result. Further, Applicants respectfully assert that floating point operations, specifically improved floating point operations “that address at least some of the problems associated with conventional methods and apparatuses for floating point computations,” provide a useful result. Paragraph [0011]. See also the arguments above regarding Claim 1.

Examiner also objects that the specification does not disclose “computer readable medium” as claimed in Claim 16. Applicants respectfully assert that computer readable medium finds support in the Specification. Among other places, the Specification reads that “the reference numeral 200 generally designates an improved high speed floating point adder.” It was well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of filing that floating point adders may be elements of floating point units which may in turn be embodied as either hardware or software embodied on computer readable medium. Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the specification for lack of antecedent to Claim 16 and its dependents has been traversed and request that the objection be withdrawn.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of Claim 16 has been overcome and that Claim 16 should be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 17-19, 21-23, 25, 28 and 29 depend from and further limit Claim 16. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these dependent Claims should also be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejections of Claims 16-19, 21-23, 25, 28 and 29 be withdrawn.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 1-8, 10, 13, 14, 16-19, 21-23, 25, 28 and 29.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 09-0447 of IBM Corporation.

Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this Application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARR LLP

Dated: June 20, 2008
CARR LLP
670 Founders Square
900 Jackson Street
Dallas, Texas 75202
Telephone: (214) 760-3030
Fax: (214) 760-3003

/Gregory W. Carr/
Gregory W. Carr
Reg. No. 31,093